

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - 24th September, 1941.

Employment increased again in August, especially in factories. War production is striding forward. Factory sales and consumption of power have made new records, and higher incomes are reflected in very heavy small savings. The buying wave of May-June appears to have subsided. House, flat and factory building are active but other kinds of building have decreased. The rural outlook is still very uncertain.

C O N T E N T S.

PART

I

Season: Rain needed.Export Prices and External Conditions:

Prices steady. Prices in U.K. Conditions in U.S.A. - Lend-Lease appropriation - aid to Russia - conveying of ships - petrol rationed - American relieving British ships for Atlantic route.

Currency Relationships:

Sterling steady in New York.

Wool:

Receipts and appraisements in Sydney. Revised est. of N.S.W. 1940-41 clip. Zone system allocation. British civilian ration. Wool to Russia? Wool position in U.S.A.

Wheat:

Crop conditions in Aust. Payment of drought relief, 1940-41 crop. Local prices unchanged.

Butter:

Production low.

Metals:

Prices in London steady.

II

Wholesale Trade:

Employment (N.S.W.) - mid-August, 1941.
Sales under Sales Tax Acts. June & Jan.-June, 1941.

Retail Trade:

Employment (N.S.W.) - mid-August, 1941.
Activity in City Shops - July, 1941.

Savings Banks:

Depositors' Balances and open Accounts at Aug. 31, 1941.
War Savings Certificates.

III

Employment, N.S.W.:

Persons employed - mid-August, 1941.

Manufacturing Industries, N.S.W.:

Employment - mid-August, 1941.
42 Large Factories - Sales, etc. July & Jan.-July, 1941.

Gas and Electricity:

Index of Consumption (Sydney) - August, 1941.

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No. of Dwellings

Wireless Licenses:

Broadcast Listeners' Licenses in force at Aug., 31, 1941.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - 24th September, 1941.

PART I PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

SEASON: The need of rain in N.S.W. is general and urgent. Light showers fell throughout the wheat belt early this week but absence of subsoil moisture renders most crops incapable of withstanding a dry spell. Prospects for summer lambing are also dependent upon early copious rainfall. Stock are being hand fed in some districts.

EXPORT PRICES AND EXTERNAL TRADE CONDITIONS. The index number of Australian export prices (Commonwealth Bank) for August, 1941 was 83 compared with 82 in August, 1940 and 66 in August, 1939. Apart from the uncertainty regarding ability to ship produce available for export, the production prospects in major exporting industries in Australia as a whole are fairly favourable though doubtful in N.S.W. The decision of producers of eggs outside the districts (Metropolitan and Newcastle) within the jurisdiction of the Egg Marketing Board to come under its control may lead to expansion of egg production in inland centres. Problems of Australian export industries are expected to have the attention of Sir Earle Page while in London.

Retail prices in the U.K. have been very steady. Index numbers (July, 1914 = 100) were:-

Sept., 1939 : 155 Sept., 1940 : 187 Apr., 1941 : 198 Aug., 1941 : 199.

The stock market rise in London was checked last week. The New York market remained firm. The U.S.A. Congress has been asked to appropriate a further \$5,985 m. (£A.1,870 m.) for Lend-Lease activities. Russia is getting war material on credit from U.S.A. Colonel Knox has revealed that the American Navy is convoying lend-lease goods for Britain. Petrol is being rationed in U.S.A. because transfer of tankers to Britain has depleted the fleet supplying the Eastern Coast from Gulf ports. American ships are taking over routes in non-combat zones to release British and Allied vessels for the Atlantic route.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY RELATIONSHIPS. There has been no change in the rate of exchange of sterling in the open market in New York. The quotation in recent weeks was \$4.035 and is on parity with the official rate in London. The amount of sterling that can be offered in this market is very small owing to the very close control exercised over the transfer of British funds abroad by the British Treasury.

WOOL. From July 1 to Sept. 18, 1941 the quantity of wool received in Sydney was 416,333 bales and 249,946 bales had been appraised. In the corresponding period of last season receipts were 458,943 bales and the quantity dealt with 227,808 bales. About 834,870 bales are catalogued for appraisal in N.S.W. (Sydney Newcastle and Goulburn) before Christmas. The estimate of the N.S.W. 1940-41 clip has now been increased from 518 m. to 533 m. lb. comparing with the record clip of 546 m. lb. in 1939-40.

The "Zone system" which provides allocations of "free" wools to meet special demands such as those of the United States will comprise 200,000 bales to be appraised in Sydney before Christmas.

It is understood that a substantial increase has been made in the British home civilian wool ration. As Government orders appear, for the time, to be on a lower scale, this will help keep mills active as well as provide necessary warm textiles for the winter.

It is reported that the British Government has sent substantial quantities of wool to Russia. Any demand from that source will contribute to modify the stocks which will be carried over into the post-war period. However, United States consumption appears likely to be a very important factor in limiting the accumulation. Imports in Jan.-May, 1941 (155 m.lb., clean scoured) were greatest since 1923 and of 162.7 m.lb. estimated to have been used in Jan.-Apr., 1941 56 p.c. was imported. According to U.S. Dept. of Agriculture 23 m.lb. of wool for the strategic reserve arrived in U.S.A. in March Qr., 1941 and further shipments are afloat. The total quantity received was given on Sept. 17, 1941 as 82,388,000 lb. American mills are busier than for many years and war and defence orders are likely to keep them so throughout the year.

WHEAT.....

WHEAT. In other States harvest prospects are good but in N.S.W. wheat crops have grown with, in most areas, only intermittent light rains, and their future is dependent upon further rain being received at an early date. Until saturating falls replenish subsoil moisture reserves yields will not be assured.

Wheatgrowers in N.S.W. are now receiving final payments from the Commonwealth drought relief grant of £320,000 in respect of the 1940-41 harvest. About 10,000 growers are affected and payments range downward from about 3s.6d. an acre in cases of total failure until on crops exceeding 7 bus. an acre, no payment is made.

Wheat futures in Chicago eased about 2 cents a bushel over the past week but the quotation on Sept. 22 for the Dec. option at $120\frac{1}{8}$ cents a bus. contrasted with that of $73\frac{7}{8}$ cents a bus. in Winnipeg.

Prices in London are steady.

The local wheat market is quiet and business is restricted to wheat for local flour and produce orders with occasional sales of wheat for gristing for export. The Wheat Board's quotations are unchanged. For silo wheat for local flour the price is 3s.11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per bus. ex trucks, Sydney. Flour at wholesale in Sydney is steady at £12.13s. a ton including tax.

PRICES OF WHEAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Shippers' offers to 1938-39. Prices for wheat for local flour from Dec., 1939.

<u>Bulk Wheat.</u>	Seasons ended November.				August.		At Sept., 24, 1941.
	Av.1931-35.	1937.	1939.	1940.	1940.	1941.	
	Shillings and pence per bushel.						
Ex trucks, Sydney	2 9½	5 3	2 5	3 10½	3 11¼	3 11¼	3 11¼
Equiv.ex farm at Countrysiding ☆	2 2½	4 8	1 9½	2 11	2 11	2 9½	2 9½

* Exclusive of bounty. Ø Net equivalent of advances made to date.

BUTTER. Last week's substantial falls in the Illawarra district have given promise of favourable spring conditions there but elsewhere dairying districts need rain badly. Substantial imports of butter from other States are necessary to satisfy local demand. The local wholesale price (unchanged) is 158s.8d. per cwt.

One large North Coast butter factory has under consideration the expenditure of £50,000 to change over to cheese making.

It is understood that the British Government will pay the same price as in 1940-41 for butter and an increased price for cheese supplied from Australia in 1941-42, but an official announcement has not yet been made. For butter the price in 1940-41 was equivalent to 137s.2d. (Aust.) per cwt., f.o.b., Sydney. This compares with the average export parity of the market price in London in the years 1936-37 to 1938-39 of 122s. (Aust.) per cwt.

METALS. Prices of the principal commercial metals are without material change in London. In the open market silver has been steady at 1s.11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an oz. and tin has fluctuated only slightly between £256 and £258 a ton over the past month or so. The wartime course of prices of these metals was:-

	<u>July,</u> <u>1939.</u>	<u>Dec.,</u> <u>1939.</u>	<u>Aug.,</u> <u>1940.</u>	<u>Dec.,</u> <u>1940.</u>	<u>Aug.</u> <u>1941.</u>	<u>Sept. 22,</u> <u>1941.</u>
<u>Tin.</u> £ s. ton	229.18	249 3	262 12	257 3	257 3	256 8
<u>Silver</u> d. oz.	16.95	23.26	23.26	23.01	23.46	23.5

Maximum prices of the British Ministry of Supply for other base metals (duty paid, delivered to buyer) in London are:-

	<u>Electrolytic Copper</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Spelter.</u>
Per ton	£62	£25	£25.15s.

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.

WHOLESALE TRADE. The value of sales as recorded under the Sales Tax Acts in N.S.W. in June, 1941 was $27\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. greater than in June, 1940. In the half-year ended June the amount was 12.8 p.c. greater this year than in 1940 and 17.4 p.c. greater than in 1939. Higher prices have some part but heavier Government purchases of war goods is the major factor in the wartime increase.

The returns cannot be used as a guide to movements in civilian consumption. It is known that in May and June, however, there was heavy buying pressure in retail shops and that in other directions (e.g. motor trade) official control affected the volume of business.

Employment in wholesale firms with ten or more employees has increased a little during the war period but some part of this increase may be due to engagement of persons to replace employees retained on payrolls after enlistment for active service. A small decrease this year from July to August was the first for the period since 1937. In these firms there were 26,222 employees in August, 1941 or 802 more than immediately before the war.

WHOLESALE TRADE - NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Sales by Registered Traders.			Employment in Wholesale Firms with Ten or More Employees.		
	June.	January to June.	Incr. over Jan.-June of Preceding year.	June.	July.	August.
	£million	£million	Per cent.	Persons	Persons	Persons.
1932	9.61	58.91	(-) 2.7	(June, 1933 = 17,638)		
1938	14.98	94.42	2.9	25,212	25,169	25,320
1939	14.88	93.69	(-) 0.7	25,212	25,356	25,420
1940	17.07	97.74	4.3	25,871	25,891	25,924
1941	21.76	110.29	12.8	26,612	26,299	26,222

Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

RETAIL TRADE. During May and June, 1941 the public made heavy demands upon retailers' stocks when official statements of the concentration of manufacturing capacity (in textiles, etc.) upon war orders led to fears of shortages of many goods. Sales increased in a group of large city shops in May by 24.2 p.c. and in June by 38.4 p.c. in comparison with the corresponding month of 1940. In July, 1941, however the increase was 10.5 p.c. and of that increase a material part might be attributed to higher prices with the increase in Sales Tax a contributory element.

Reduction of income tax instalments began again in August. But during the war period there has been a significant increase in incomes of consumers. Average weekly earnings of all persons (including females and juveniles) in firms with ten or more employees were 95s.7d. in July, 1941 compared with 89s.7d. in July 1940 and 86s.7d. in July 1939. Beside this there is the great increase in the number of wage earners (see p. 5) Much purchasing power has been drawn off in taxation and savings, but apparently further restrictions on spending will be necessary when civilian supplies are depleted by diversion of manufacturing capacity to war production.

Employment in retail trade has increased appreciably during the war period except in country towns. In about 550 retail firms with ten or more employees there were 53,491 persons employed in August, 1941 - an increase of 4.4 p.c. since August, 1939.

/EMPLOYMENT.....

EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL TRADE, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Middle Week of August -	Sydney.		Newcastle District.	Country Towns.	Total, N.S.W.	
	City.	Suburbs.			Number.	Incr. in last 12 mths.
	Persons employed in firms with ten or more employees.					
	1937	34,983	4,068	2,345	8,552	49,948
1938	36,109	3,953	2,509	8,752	51,323	1,375
1939	36,136	4,030	2,543	8,544	51,253	(-) 70
1940	36,706	4,084	2,536	8,402	51,728	475
1941	38,304	4,204	2,736	8,247	53,491	1,763

Stocks in the group of city stores were 11.1 p.c. greater in value in July, 1941 than a year before. Apparently shops were still able to replenish many lines as in March, April, May and June, 1941 stocks were respectively 0.1% above, 0.4 and 0.5 p.c. below and 1.4 p.c. above those of a year earlier. Employees in these shops numbered 4.2 p.c. more and the amount paid out in salaries and wages was 11.4 p.c. greater than in July, 1940.

SAVINGS BANKS. In recent months depositors have made heavy additions to their accounts in savings banks and the amount on deposit at 31st August, 1941 (£89.72 m.) was easily a record. This is a reflection of the wartime increase in the number of wage-earners, higher wages rates, and full and overtime working. In August the excess of deposits over withdrawals (£1,194,000) was greatest of any month for at least seven years, and the number of open savings accounts increased by 11,491.

Beside this a considerable volume of small savings is being placed in War Savings Certificates - net sales of these in N.S.W. in Jan.-July, 1941 were £1,700,000. Increases in savings of these two forms in recent months were as follow:-

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Jan.- Aug.
Savings Deposits of £000.	688	563	602	245	-886	1654	772	1194	4,832
" Certificates ★ "	156	179	215	159	300	392	299	(300?)	(2,000)
	844	742	817	404	-586	2046	1071	(1494?)	6,832

of Excess of deposits over withdrawals (includes interest - abt. £1.55 m. - added in June). ★ Purchases (at cost) less repayments - figure for August only assumption.

Movements in deposits and the number of open accounts in savings banks in recent years were as follow:-

SAVINGS BANKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Depositors' Balances.		Increase in Deposits.		Open Savings Accounts.	
	July.	August.	In August.	In year ended Aug.	July.	August.
	£000	£000	£000	£000	Number (000)	
1937	81,949	82,229	280	2,439	1,228	1,238
1938	85,953	86,310	357	4,081	1,298	1,306
1939	87,201	86,957	(-) 244	647	1,338	1,315
1940	82,135	83,074	939	(-) 3,883	1,314	1,321
1941	88,522	89,717	1,194	6,642	1,350	1,362

Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

PART III. INDUSTRIES.

EMPLOYMENT. The record number of 912,158 persons were employed in N.S.W in the middle week of August, 1941. This was 41,900 more than in Aug., 1940 and 80,400 more than in the month before the outbreak of the war. Employment continues to expand although enlistments and absorption in war industries have cut deeply into actual and potential reserve sources of labour supply. The number of adult males registered as unemployed at State Labour exchanges was
13,706 in August, 1941
compared with 27,468 in August, 1940
and 52,851 " " 1939.

The growth in employment from month to month and during selected periods was as follows:-

	Aug. ^ø	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Incr. Year ended Aug.
Persons in Employment in New South Wales - Thousands.								
1938	808.8	835.2	835.8	835.6	839.5	838.6	834.6	25.8
1939 (a)	834.6	834.1	837.7	836.2	831.5	833.3	831.8	- 2.8
1940	831.8	865.7	852.1	837.1	856.4	865.1	870.3	38.5
1941 (b)	870.3	902.7	902.1	906.6	908.7	910.4	912.2	41.9
Incr. (a) to (b)	35.7	68.6	64.4	70.4	77.2	77.1	80.4	-

^ø Preceding year.

Government munitions, aircraft, etc. factories have been expanded but the larger part of the war production programme is in the hands of private industry. The increase in employment is outstandingly in factories; much of that in "Government" is in this group. Wartime economic organisation (e.g. Wool Board, Wheat Board, etc.) as well as departmental and service activities and defence works, etc. have necessitated staff extensions. Details of employment by status of employer are as under; figures in parenthesis are year to year movements.

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

<u>Mid-August.</u>	<u>Private Employment</u>	<u>Local Government.</u>	<u>State, Federal Govt. Water Bd. etc.</u>	<u>All Factories.</u>
1938	684,897(24,138)	21,375(-1,736)	128,300(3,400)	228,900 (9,600)
1939	680,300(-4,597)	20,106(-1,269)	131,400(3,100)	228,700 (- 200)
1940	714,688(34,388)	18,338(-1,768)	137,300(5,900)	248,300 (19,600)
1941	748,073(33,385)	17,685(- 653)	146,400(9,100)	281,300 (33,000)

Industrial development is examined in the next succeeding note. From July to August the only changes of note were a seasonal decrease in retail trade employment and further progress in factories. (The figures for August, 1941 include as employed over 5,000 coal mine and foundry employees idle owing to industrial disputes.) Compared with the pre-war month (Aug., 1939) employment as a whole has increased 9.7 p.c. In factories alone the increase was 23.0 p.c. and additional handling and storage of primary products, and retention on payrolls of many employees on active service are factors supplementary to buoyancy of business in the increase under "offices and commerce". The details, together with appropriate comparisons in concluding columns are as shown on following page:-

/EMPLOYMENT.....

PART III (Continued.)

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Excluding Relief Workers and Men in the Armed Forces Not on Civil Paysheets.

GROUP	PERSONS EMPLOYED IN MIDDLE WEEK OF -					MOVEMENT.	
	Aug., 1938.	Aug., 1939.	Aug., 1940.	July, 1941	Aug., 1941	Aug., '40 to Aug. '41.	Aug. '39 to Aug., '41.
	000	000	000	000	000	p.c.	p.c.
All Employment	834.6	831.8	872.0	910.4	912.2	(+) 4.6	(+) 9.7
Private "	684.9	680.3	714.7	746.7	748.1	(+) 4.7	(+) 10.0
In all Factories ^Ø	228.9	228.7	248.3	278.7	281.3	(+) 13.3	(+) 23.0
<u>In Firms with Ten or More Em- ployees:</u>							
Mines	21.0	21.7	21.0	21.0	21.0	-	(-) 3.2
Retail Trade	51.3	51.3	51.7	54.3	53.5	(+) 3.5	(+) 4.3
Wholesale "	25.3	25.4	25.9	26.3	26.2	(+) 1.2	(+) 3.1
Offices & Commerce	26.3	27.1	29.1	28.9	29.8	(+) 2.4	(+) 10.0
Ship'g. & Rd. Transpt.	19.5	20.7	21.4	21.2	21.2	(-) 0.9	(+) 2.4
Personal Services ^X	28.7	29.3	29.7	31.1	31.0	(+) 4.4	(+) 5.8
Other Industries	21.7	20.2	20.4	17.6	17.9	(-) 12.3	(-) 11.4

^Ø Includes working proprietors.^X Includes hospitals, professions, amusements, hotels, etc.

Special information collected in respect of employment in the months May, 1938, July, 1940, Nov., 1940 and June, 1941 shows that in firms with ten or more taxable employees the ratio of males to females has not changed greatly though the increase in the female proportion was appreciable in most groups except factories. Proportions were as follow:-

MALES AND FEMALES EMPLOYED BY EMPLOYERS WITH TEN OR MORE TAXABLE EMPLOYEES.

	<u>Wholesale Trade.</u>		<u>Retail Trade.</u>		<u>Commerce</u>		<u>Factories</u>		<u>All other</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	Proportion per cent. of total in group.											
May '38	78.0	22.0	50.1	49.9	76.4	24.6	73.8	26.2	77.1	22.9	71.9	28.1
July '40	76.6	23.4	50.6	49.4	73.7	26.3	73.5	26.5	78.4	21.6	71.7	28.3
Nov., '40	76.3	23.7	49.0	51.0	75.8	24.2	73.1	26.9	75.5	24.5	70.8	29.2
June, '41	75.2	24.8	49.4	50.6	73.7	26.3	74.1	25.9	75.5	24.5	71.3	28.7

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

More persons were employed in factories in N.S.W. in August, 1941 than ever before. The number of 281,300 was 52,600 (or 23 p.c.) greater than in Aug., 1939. This large war-time increase, which has raised the index number of factory employment 56 p.c. above the average for the best pre-depression year, is due primarily to the expansion of war industries and of basic industries supplying them with materials. Trends in employment in factories in N.S.W. were:-

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES IN N.S.W.

	<u>June, 1933</u>	<u>Aug., 1938</u>	<u>Aug., 1939</u>	<u>Aug.,⁺ 1940</u>	<u>Mar.,⁺ 1941</u>	<u>May,⁺ 1941</u>	<u>July,⁺ 1941</u>	<u>Aug.,⁺ 1941</u>
Persons (000)	139.7	228.9	228.7	248.3	269.8	272.2	278.7	281.3
Index No. 1928-29 = 100	77	127	126	137	149	151	154	156

⁺ Subject to revision.

/The expansion.....

PART III. (Continued.)

The expansion of war industries, still proceeding, will tax the supply of skilled and semi-skilled labour. Up to the present the increase appears to have been drawn mainly from men, though very many women have entered industry during the war period, and future expansion will depend in increasing degree upon the training and employment of female labour. The proportions of male, female and juvenile labour in N.S.W. factories with ten or more taxable employees at various recent dates as disclosed by wage tax returns were as follow:-

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES WITH TEN OR MORE TAXABLE EMPLOYEES, N.S.W.

	MALES		Total Males.	FEMALES		Total Females.
	21 years & over.	Under 21 years.		21 years & over	Under 21 years.	
	Proportion (per cent.) of total number employed.					
May, 1938	56.92	16.86	73.78	-	-	26.22
July, 1940	57.32	16.14	73.46	13.11	13.43	26.54
Nov., 1940	57.22	15.91	73.13	13.46	13.41	26.87
June, 1941	58.75	15.36	74.11	13.42	12.47	25.89

There have been industrial disputes which have delayed production in some war industries; stoppages in coal mines in the Maitland district and amongst iron moulders in foundries and textile workers have been overcome but assurance of industrial peace seems lacking. Efforts are to be made to obviate, as far as possible, the working of excessive overtime as recommended by the British Mission's report.

Iron and steel production is being maintained at capacity levels. Textile and clothing and boot factories are working on large orders for the Empire Eastern Supply Group and for Australian defence requirements. The Government aero-engine and aircraft assembly factories are rapidly attaining full staffing, and other plants, both public and private, for munitions etc. manufacture are being extended. In factories with ten or more taxable employees employment increased in every group shown below. The percentage comparisons set at foot of the next table show that during the war period expansion has been proportionately greatest in the chemical, metals working and rubber industries - those most closely identified with war production - though many thousand employees have been added in textile, clothing and food factories to meet wartime demands.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES WITH TEN OR MORE EMPLOYEES, N.S.W.

Middle week of -	Cement, Bricks, Glass, etc.	Chemicals etc.	Industrial metals	Textiles and Clothing	Food and Drink	Wood-working &c.	Paper & Printing.	Rubber
Number of persons employed - thousands.								
Aug., 1938	11.70	C 6.68	C64.57	C 37.75	27.77	10.77	16.64	C 3.81
" 1939(a)	11.50	C 7.24	C61.78	C 36.96	27.96	9.89	14.81	C 3.68
" 1940	12.49	C 8.62	C70.85	C 40.22	28.95	9.65	14.58	C 3.74
June, 1941	13.07	C 9.48	C88.03	C 41.80	30.70	10.71	14.84	C 4.62
July, "	13.25	C 9.45	C89.31	C 41.94	30.79	10.98	14.75	C 4.60
Aug., " (b)	13.09	C 9.56	C91.28	C 42.18	30.80	10.98	14.79	C 4.60
Incr.(a) to (b) %	13.83	C32.04	C47.75	C 14.12	10.16	11.02	(-) 0.14	C25.00

C. In terms of recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Censorship and Statistics in Wartime, these figures should not be used for general publication.

Minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

Many existing as well as newly established factories are engaged in war production while those serving civilian needs, and not given over to meeting war orders are working to provide supplies in place of those cut off by import restrictions.

/In forty.....

PART III. (Continued,

In forty-two large factories goods sold in July, 1941 were about 50 p.c. greater in value than in the corresponding month in 1937, 1938 or 1939. These factories had 24.5 p.c. more employees and paid out 42.4 p.c. more in salaries and wages than in July, 1939. Sales in the seven months ended July were £21.22 m. in 1939, £23.92m. in 1940 and £28.7m. in 1941.

Trends in manufacturing activity are illustrated statistically as under:-

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES - NEW SOUTH WALES.

	ALL FACTORIES		FORTY-TWO LARGE FACTORIES					
	August		Month of July			January to July (Monthly Averages).		
	EMPLOYMENT.							
	Number	Index No.	Sales	Employ- ees.	Wages paid weekly	Sales	Employ- ees	Wages paid weekly
	Av. 1928-29=		£000	000	£000	£000	000	£000
	180,756	100						
1937	219,300	121	3,064	22.7	87.1	2,955	22.2	84.3
1938	228,900	127	3,029	23.8	97.5	3,096	23.3	94.6
1939	228,700	126	2,961	22.8	95.0	3,032	23.0	94.9
1940	248,300 ^ø	137 ^ø	3,512	24.1	107.2	3,417	23.6	101.2
1941	281,300 ^ø	156 ^ø	4,638	28.4	135.3	4,100	27.2	124.7

^ø Subject to revision.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY. The amount of gas and electricity consumed in Sydney and suburbs continues to increase and in August, 1941 the index number was 51 p.c. above the pre-depression average and 11.9 p.c. higher than in August, 1939. The greater part of the latter increase is due to heavier demands of industry consequent upon the erection of new and extension of existing factories and widespread institution of two or more shifts. Over the longer term other factors are the growth of population, extension of services and technical progress. Index numbers illustrating trends in consumption are:-

INDEX OF CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY - SYDNEY.

1929 1932 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941

Index numbers - Average, 1929-31 = 100.

Month of August	106	94	120	128	135	137	151
Calendar Year	105	96	119	123	131	135	-

BUILDING PERMITS - METROPOLIS.

NOTE: Government buildings are not included in building permits.

Permits were £974,000 in Aug., 1941. Private building appears active and roughly midway between the 1940 and 1938 levels. There is a good deal of public building. Types other than houses, flats and factory premises have decreased greatly. Housebuilding is at a record level. Greater control has been taken over flat building. Dwellings proposed in Jan.-Aug., numbered 7,197 this year; 2,201 more than in 1940 but 1,133 less than in 1939.

Buildings of a value of £974,000 were covered by permits granted in Sydney and suburbs in August, 1941. This was £18,000 more than in Aug., 1940 but otherwise was the lowest August total since 1936. The seasonal decrease from the high level of the preceding quarter appeared greater this year than is usual but short term movements afford little guide to trends. Private building activity remains considerable, but the following figures imply a decrease of about 20 per cent. in comparison with the post-depression peak level in 1938.

/Jan.

PART III. (Continued.)

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May. June July Aug. Jan.-Aug.

Value of private building permits granted - £ thousand.

1938	905	899	1,303	1,256	1,292	1,140	1,741	1,202	9,738
1939	864	999	993	931	1,028	1,270	1,522	1,209	8,816
1940	699	755	870	1,041	979	959	1,048	956	7,307
1941	696	804	857	775	1,078	1,382	1,239	974	7,805

Even with the addition of much public building (for defence, etc. purposes) the value of buildings undertaken in recent months does not reach the level of 1938. In point of volume the comparison is affected by the increase in building costs (of about 15 per cent.?) during the past three years.

METROPOLISMONTH OF AUGUSTJANUARY-AUGUST

		<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>
Public Buildings	£000	418	53	135	546	1569
Private	" £000	1209	956	974	7307	7805
TOTAL	£000	1627	1009	1109	7853	9374

Building activity in the City was already decreasing before the war. Restrictions under Building Control Regulations have accentuated that trend. In the suburbs, however, permits granted this year were comparable in value with those in other recent years:-

CITY BUILDING PERMITS. (£000)SUBURBAN BUILDING PERMITS (£000)

	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>
August	156	141	128	124	10	893	1061	1081	832	964
Jan.-Aug.	1686	2340	1354	848	398	5296	7398	7462	6459	7407

Latterly there has been a very marked increase in permits for houses and flats, but in August the increase compared with August, 1940 was not as great as the year to year movement in preceding months. Decreases were shown for all other classes. Comparative details are appended. Particulars for the eight months ended August reveal the same tendencies - a high level of house, flat and factory construction, and decreasing activity in erection of other (mainly non-essential or deferrable) kinds of building.

VALUE OF PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS GRANTED - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

Includes Alterations, etc. as well as New Buildings. Excludes Gov't. Buildings.

Period.	Houses		Flats (a)	Hotels, Guest Houses	Shops (b)	Factor- ies (c).	Offices, Theatres, etc.	Total
	Brick etc.	Wood, Fibro.						
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
August, 1938	491	95	360	28	19	61	148	1202
1939	490	97	276	13	103	134	96	1209
1940	458	72	183	36	21	106	80	956
June, 1941	655	130	345	13	31	146	62	1382
July, "	685	116	184	2	10	196	46	1239
August, "	509	133	204	1	14	88	25	974
Jan.-Aug. 1938	3423	597	2391	417	375	686	1849	9738
" 1939	3196	684	2188	313	375	985	1075	8816
" 1940	3155	662	1425	495	226	635	709	7307
" 1941	4036	655	1729	38	166	775	406	7805
Movement: 8 mths. 1939 to 1941.	+26.3%	-4.2%	-21.0%	-87.9%	-55.7%	-21.3%	-62.2%	-11.5%

Includes (a) conversions to flats (b) shops with dwellings and (c) public garages.

/Since.....

Since Dec. 5, 1941 official sanction has been required for erection of any factory building of a value exceeding £3,000 and the National Security (Capital Issues) Regulations preclude investment in non-essential manufacturing enterprises. Hence the large amount of factory building being undertaken can be regarded as associated with and a portent of rapidly expanding war industries.

VALUE OF PERMITS TO ERECT, ADD TO OR ALTER FACTORIES - METROPOLIS.

	<u>Sept. Qr.</u>	<u>Dec. Qr.</u>	<u>Mar. Qr.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>	<u>June.</u>	<u>July.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>
1938 & '39 £000	196	139	336	172	116	51	146	132
1939 & '40 "	358	241	209	64	64	104	62	106
1940 & '41 "	253	451	204	77	58	146	196	88

DWELLINGS. Under new regulations made this month the Commonwealth Treasurer's consent is required for the erection of any dwelling containing more than two flats even if the estimated cost is less than £3,000.

In the metropolis in August, there were 979 net additional dwellings proposed in 1941 compared with 820 in 1940 and 1,051 in 1939. There were more houses than in August of any year since 1937, but only in 1940 were flat dwellings fewer in number.

The number of dwellings of all kinds proposed in the eight months ended August, (7,197 this year) was 20 per cent. greater than in 1940 but 13.7 per cent. below the number in the post-depression peak year, 1938. Comparative details are as follow:-

DWELLINGS INCLUDED IN PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS - METROPOLIS.

TYPE OF DWELLING.	EIGHT MONTHS ENDED AUGUST.					Movement, 1939 to 1941.
	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	
	Number of Dwelling Units					per cent.
Houses - Brick, etc.	2280	3288	3044	2873	3530	+ 16.0
- Wood, fibro	685	1121	1238	1103	967	- 21.9
Total - Houses	2965	4409	4282	3976	4497	+ 5.0
Flats - In new buildings	2015	3718	2963	1986	2681	- 9.5
In converted "	328	298	213	183	102	- 52.1
With shops, hotels, etc.	92	135	137	77	60	- 56.2
Total - Flats, etc.	2435	4151	3313	2246	2843	- 14.2
Grand Total	5400	8560	7595	6222	7340	- 3.4
Less Demolitions & Conversions	296	230	229	226	143	- 37.6
Net Additional Dwellings	5104	8330	7366	5996	7197	- 2.3

The annual equivalent of the number of dwellings proposed in the first eight months of this year (10,795) is greater than the actual number of dwelling units proposed in any of the past twelve years with the one exception of 1938 (11,853 dwellings). It is not sufficiently great, however, to contribute materially in overtaking the under-building of housing in the depression years. The course of residential building since 1929 was as follows:-

/NUMBER.....

PART III. (Continued.)

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS INCLUDED IN PRIVATE BUILDING PERMITS - METROPOLIS.

	CALENDAR YEAR					JAN.-AUG.	
	1929	Av. 1930-34	1938	1939	1940	1940	1941
Individual Houses	7,095	1,205	6,342	5,847	5,706	3,976	4,497
Flats, with shops, etc.	3,097	656	5,821	4,290	4,135	2,246	2,843
Net Total (Demolitions and Conversions deducted)	9,854	1,839	11,853	9,822	9,557	5,996	7,197

WIRELESS LICENSES. There were 498,073 Broadcast Listeners' Licenses in force in N.S.W. on 31st August, 1941. This was 22,302 more than in August, 1940, but the increase of 3,169 during the month was the first of significance since April, 1941. There are approximately 18 licenses current for each 100 persons in the State and consequently further large increases are not to be expected. Particulars of licenses current and of increases from year to year are appended:-

BROADCAST LISTENERS' LICENSES IN FORCE IN NEW SOUTH WALES.
(Including Australian Capital Territory).

1932 1934 1936 1938 1939 1940 1941

Number of Licenses - Thousands.

Current at 31st August.	184.1	243.3	327.2	414.7	431.0	475.8	498.1
Increase in year ended August	27.7	61.8	45.6	44.5	16.3	44.8	22.3